

Local News

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What price history? \$295,000 for Frost

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Robert Frost's winter home stands in a sun-dappled glade near South Miami.

Tuesday, the owners put the tiny clapboard cottage up for sale.

The asking price: \$295,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Havel of Pawley's Island, S.C. decided to sell Frost's former winter residence four weeks after Metro's Historic Preservation Board voted to designate the 40-year prefabricated home a historic site.

The Havels were not consulted before the board acted, according to their real estate broker, Raymond G. Asmar.

Historic designation means the two cottages on the property can't be altered without a certificate from the Historic Preservation Board.

Frost acquired the property in 1940, a year after the death of his wife, Elinor. The four-time Pulitzer Prize winner cleared away thick foliage by hand and planted grapefruit, mango and loquat trees.

He called his South Florida winter hideaway at 8101 SW 53rd Ave., Pencil Pines.

The New England native spent every winter here between 1942 and the time of his death in 1963 at age 89.

Ironically, the thickly overgrown property, replete with live oak trees, fruit trees, a lily pond, bromeliads and orchids, is worth more than the clapboard home where he once lived and worked.

The Dade County property assessment values the land at \$151,900. The two cottages, each only 650 square feet, are assessed at \$11,378.

The Havels purchased both cottages and

1.9 acres of land in June, 1966. They paid \$27,500.

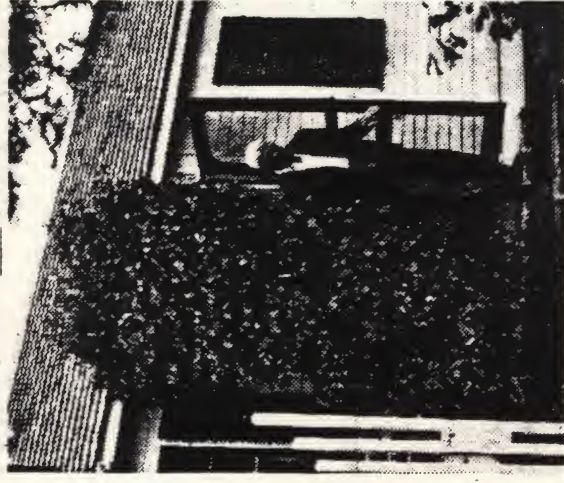
Asmar says the cottage once occupied by Frost has been vacant for years. There is no kitchen, "just a little fireplace, a small living area, one bedroom and a bath."

A caretaker lives in the companion cottage next door to keep an eye on the property.

Both wooden sided cottages, which were shipped partially assembled from the north during World War II, are painted peach color and trimmed with light green shutters.

"It has to be the most unusual property I've ever listed," says Asmar.

Frost's former winter home is the youngest building to get the historic site designation, says Ivan Rodriguez, director of Metro's Historic Preservation Division.



Robert Frost at door of his tiny cottage, now for sale, in 1963.